VENABLE® LLP

575 SEVENTH STREET NW WASHINGTON, DC 20004
T 202.344.4000 F 202.344.8300 www.Venable.com

October 6, 2014

VIA EMAIL

National Freedom of Information Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. (2822T)
Washington, DC 20460
(202) 566-1667
hq.foia@epa.gov

Re: Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") Request – Records Related to Oak Ridge National Laboratory Petition to Use SOXTEC Extraction System (RCRA Online Letter RO 13187)

To whom it may concern:

I write to request that the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") provide copies of the records described below pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552, and the EPA regulations, 40 C.F.R. § 2.100 *et seq*. This request seeks records relating to the petition of Oak Ridge National Laboratory ("Oak Ridge") to use the SOXTEC extraction system in place of the conventional Soxhlet extraction system (Method 3540) for preparation of PCB samples for Method 8080 at ORNL, as approved by EPA in a letter dated May 31, 1988 from David Friedman (Chief, OSW-Methods Section) to Mr. R. Wade Knight, EPA Region IV (RCRA Online Letter RO 13187, attached hereto).

Records requested: This request seeks the original petition of Oak Ridge in the matter described above, including the accompanying data package, all exhibits and/or attachments thereto, and all subsequent related correspondence between Oak Ridge and EPA, through May 31, 1988.

For the purposes of this request, "records" includes (in electronic and/or hard copy form) letters, memoranda, and guidance documents. EPA is hereby authorized to incur up to $200 in costs for the purposes of fulfilling this request for which I will be responsible. In the event that the cost of meeting this request is greater than $200, please incur up to $200 in costs and then notify me that there are additional records to be obtained and provide an estimate of the cost to obtain all additional records sought by this request and not captured in the initial $200 limit.

Records Claimed as Exempt: Should EPA respond by invoking a FOIA exemption with respect to any of the records requested herein, please include in your response (1) basic factual

material about the withheld item, including author/originator, date created/revised, length, general subject matter, and location; and (2) explanation(s) and justification(s) for withholding of record, including identification of claimed exemption and a full explanation of applicability of claimed exemption to the requested record. Where only a portion of a record is exempt from disclosure, please redact the exempt portion, providing the information requested above regarding the exempt material, and provide the remainder of the record.

Record Delivery: Please produce the records requested herein on a rolling basis as they become available; please do not delay the production of records identified by EPA for production because of difficulty locating, or concerns regarding the production of, other records. Please deliver the records requested herein as soon as possible to Allison Foley, Venable LLP, 575 7th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20004.

If you have questions or require additional information concerning this request, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone (202.344.4416) or email (adfoley@venable.com). Thank you.

Sincerely,

Allison D. Foley

Attachment

9443.1988(06)

SOXTEC EXTRACTION SYSTEM VS. SOXHLET EXTRACTION SYSTEM FOR PREPARATION OF PCB SAMPLES

May 31, 1988

Mr. R. Wade Knight
U.S. E.P.A. Region IV
College Station Road
Athens, Georgia 30613

Dear Wade:

We have reviewed the data package submitted by Joseph Stewart of Oak Ridge National Laboratory in support of his petition to use the SOXTEC extraction system, in place of the conventional Soxhlet extraction system (Method 3540), for preparation of PCB samples for Method 8080 at ORNL. The PCB data generated from split samples, run concurrently, using the conventional Soxhlet and the SOXTEC extraction techniques for sample preparation, shows that these preparative techniques are equivalent, within allowable standard deviation limits. These data also demonstrate that Method 8080, utilizing either extraction technique, is appropriate for the analysis of PCB's in soil and clay matrices at the low ppm level. The SOXTEC system actually proved to be the superior technique when time constraints were considered, taking only 2 hours for sample preparation vs. 17 hours for Soxhlet.

From the submitted information, we believe that ORNL has demonstrated the equivalency of the Soxhlet and SOXTEC extraction procedures for generating PCB data, and their petition to use the SOXTEC extraction system for preparation of PCB samples in place of the Soxhlet method (Method 3540) should be granted. Furthermore, we in the RCRA program, with support from Superfund, are in the process of using this ORNL data to develop a general extraction procedure for SW-846 using the SOXTEC apparatus.

We are in the process of assembling samples to be split for a multilaboratory validation study of the SOXTEC extraction procedure for PCB's. This will be followed by a program to expand the utility of this technique into a general SW-846

method with a scope equivalent to that of Method 3540.

If we can be of any further assistance to you, please call Barry Lesnik at FTS 382-4761.

Sincerely yours,

David Friedman, Chief
OSW-Methods Section (WH-562B)

cc: Barry Lesnik